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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/231,415	01/14/1999	DON P. WOLFE	AUTOB.043A	3041

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EXAMINER

COLBERT, ELLA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3624

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/231,415

Applicant(s)

WOLFE ET AL.

Examiner

Ella Colbert

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address.

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 26-42 are pending. Applicant's election with traverse Group II, claims 26-42 filed 08/27/02 entered as paper no. 10 is acknowledged. The traversal on the ground(s) that Applicants' believe that the restriction requirement is improper and therefore make the election with traverse. Applicants' Group I claims 1-25 and 58-76 classed in class 705, subclass 26 are directed to a method of management. Applicants' Group I claims 1-25 and 58-76 are distinctly related to managing a purchase request in a data center. Applicants' Group III claims 43-57 are directed to a data center apparatus classed in class 707, subclass 100. Applicants' Group III claims 43-57 are distinctly related to a data center apparatus. Applicants' Group II (provisionally elected) claims 26-42 were classed in class 709, subclass 135 and are now classed in class 709, subclass 217. Applicants' Group II claims 26-42 are distinctly related to a purchase request system. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given and Groups I, II, and III require different searches in different classes and subclasses, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Claim Objections

2. The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Misnumbered claim 42 has been renumbered Claim 41.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 26-31 and 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 5,592,375) Salmon et al, hereafter Salmon.

With respect to claim 26, Salmon teaches, a purchase request management system, wherein said purchase request is remotely managed by a user over a computer network, said purchase request management system comprising:

a system database which provides an exclusive database region for each of a plurality of dealers (col. 1, lines 26-34 and fig. 3a (element 100); a plurality of purchase requests created by potential buyers, said purchase requests being stored in said central database (col. 1, lines 34-38). Salmon did not teach, a purchase request management module which provides said user access into said exclusive database region, said purchase request management module includes one or more action response modules, but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a purchase request management module which provides said user access into said exclusive database region, said purchase request management module includes one or more action response modules and to modify in Salmon in view of Salmon's teachings of a seller's interface (dealer) and the

use of a database manager to collect product profile information in col. 3, lines 49-56 and because such a modification would allow Salmon to perform responses to the purchase request by a user.

With respect to claim 27, Salmon did not teach, the management system as additionally comprising a dealer terminal, said dealer terminal displaying a split screen and the split screen lists the purchase requests on one side and a purchase request detail on the other side, but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the management system to additionally comprise a dealer terminal with the dealer terminal displaying a split screen and the split screen lists the purchase requests on one side and a purchase request detail on the other side and to modify in view of Salmon's teachings of the buyer's interface presenting a particular screen in col. 4, lines 26-67, col. 5, lines 1-4, and figs. 2d-2f and because such a modification would allow Salmon to identify text and images associated with the product profile on the screen.

With respect to claim 28, Salmon teaches, wherein said list of purchase requests includes an assigned user (col. 8, lines 4-24 and figs. 7e- 7f).

With respect to claim 29, wherein said purchase request details includes a purchase request task list (col. 8, lines 32-39).

With respect to claim 30, Salmon teaches, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigned user (col. 8, lines 57-67 and col. 9, lines 1-2 and lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 31, Salmon teaches, wherein said purchase request task list includes an assigning user (col. 8, lines 30-67).

With respect to claim 34, Salmon teaches, a purchase request management system having a system database, said system database including an exclusive database region for each of a plurality of dealers, said system database containing at least one purchase request, wherein at least one user has access to said purchase request in said exclusive database region, said management system comprising: means for listing said purchase request (col. 3, lines 22-27); means for selecting said purchase request (col. 3, lines 49-58); means for displaying details of said purchase request (col. 3, lines 59-67 and col. 4, lines 1-25). Salmon did not teach, means for acting on said purchase request, wherein said acting includes utilizing one or more action response modules, but it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a means for acting on said purchase request, wherein said acting includes utilizing one or more action response modules and in view of Salmon's teachings of the seller selecting from among the categories of additional information to add and presenting a series of questions in col. 6, lines 46-60 and col. 7, lines 32-38 and because such a modification would allow Salmon to have more flexibility in responses to purchase requests.

With respect to claim 35, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 27.

With respect to claim 36, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 28.

With respect to claim 37, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 29.

With respect to claim 38, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given for claim 30.

With respect to claim 39, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 31.

5. Claims 32-33 and 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmon in view of "Computerized Selling: Dealership systems now track customers along with the bills and payroll" by Charles M. Thomas, hereafter Thomas.

With respect to claim 32, Salmon did not teach, wherein said user is a sales manager.

Thomas discloses, wherein said user is a sales manager (page 2, paragraph 17). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a user as a sales manager and to modify in Salmon because such a modification would allow Salmon to sell a broad range of sales modules aimed at showroom traffic control.

With respect to claim 33, Salmon did not teach, wherein said user is a salesperson.

Thomas discloses, wherein said user is a salesperson (page 2, paragraphs 2-7). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a user as a salesperson and to modify in Salmon because such a modification would allow Salmon to track contacts made by the salesmen at the end of each day by the computer being linked to the dealership's phone system.

With respect to claim 40, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 32.

With respect to claim 41, this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale given above for claim 33.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Business Wire, "America Online, Inc. Acquires PersonLogic, Inc." disclosed creating personalized preference profiles that cover such topics as new and used automobiles, bicycles, cruises, mutual funds, computers, colleges, cities, camcorders, dogs, and many others.

Zikakis, Christopher disclosed dealership management using automobile data.

Ikeda et al (US 5,937,391) disclosed an online shopping mall established through a network.

Doyle et al (US 5,694,551) disclosed an electronic requisitioning system for channeling customer requisition orders.

Meltzer et al (US 6,125,391) disclosed using documents for commerce in trading partner networks.

Inquiries

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 703-308-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am -5:00 pm.

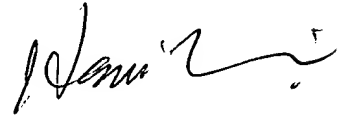
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on 703-308-1038. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for Official communications and 703-746-5622 for Unofficial communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.



E. Colbert
December 29, 2002



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER